

Oregon Health Plan Covers Care to Prevent RSV in Children



High-risk children up to two years of age may be eligible for medication to prevent severe RSV infection

During the 2022-2023 RSV season, the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) covers palivizumab (Synagis) for children who are:

- At high risk for developing severe RSV infection, and
- Two years old or less at the beginning of RSV season (usually November through March in Oregon).

What is RSV?

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a seasonal virus. For most children, it is like a cold, and gets better on its own. For high-risk children, it can cause breathing problems and pneumonia. This can lead to a trip to the hospital.

[Learn more about RSV symptoms in babies and young children, and when to call the doctor.](#)

If your child is at high risk, call your child's doctor right away.

Ask your doctor if your child is at high risk for severe RSV infection. The doctor may need to ask your child's coordinated care organization (CCO) for approval of medication to prevent severe RSV infection.

What does the RSV medication do?

Palivizumab (Synagis) is an antibody injection to prevent severe RSV infection. The injections:

- Are once each month during RSV season.
- Can be at the doctor's office or a hospital.
- Strengthen the body's immune response to RSV exposure.

You can get this in another language, large print,
or another way that is best for you.
Call 800-699-9075 (TTY 711).

- Can help children at high risk of severe RSV infection avoid needing hospital care.

[Learn more on the Synagis website.](#)

Who is at high risk for severe RSV infection?

Your child may be at risk if aged two years or less and your child's doctor told you that your child:

- Has chronic lung disease because they were born early
- Had a recent heart transplant
- Has a compromised immune system because of transplants received during RSV season
- Has cystic fibrosis and signs of severe lung disease
- Has a weight or length less than the 10th percentile
- Was born early (prematurely)
- Has lung or breathing problems that make it hard to handle secretions (such as drooling or mucus)
- Has certain heart diseases or defects

Questions?

If you have questions about whether your child is at high risk for RSV, ask your child's doctor.

If you need to find a health care provider for your child, [ask your child's CCO](#). If your child does not have a CCO:

- Call OHP Care Coordination at 800-562-4620.
- American Indian and Alaska Native members can also call CareOregon Tribal Care Coordination at 844-847-9320.

OHP.Oregon.gov